



SASKATCHEWAN
OIL & GAS
SHOW

2013 Southeast Saskatchewan Oil Person of the Year Cliff Nankivell

Clifford James Nankivell was born Nov. 12/1932, third son of William & Eileen Nankivell. He came from a family of seven siblings & lived in the Arrow River & Crandall Manitoba area. Like most families back then, they were farmers on a small scale. It was here that Cliff learned the concept of pride in your possessions such as his beautiful team of horses & later the older family cars that he drove his parents around in. He always felt that pride in your work & a little elbow grease could take you far.

Cliff married Joanna Souter on June 17th/1955 & they struck out to start farming on their own. Their son Calvin was born April 7th, 1956. That year the farming was disastrous in the area widespread as the aphids moved in and ate all the barley crops. Cliff was totally wiped out of farming. His lifelong dream of running his own farm was shattered but not to be disillusioned, he dusted himself off & looked for greener pastures.

With a young family to care for Cliff knew he needed to find a new line of work.

Jan. 1st, 1957 he started driving truck for Bill Van Buskirk leased on with Les Parcels Trucking in Alida, SK. This was quite a large company at that time with 35 50 bbl trucks serving the area of Alida, Carnduff & Storthoaks. The hours were long & the lease roads were virtually non-existent, just goat trails. So, when the rains came, the roads were impassable. Life in the camps was not all that easy for the families either. Water had to be hauled in & the trailers were small & crowded. Joanna stated that living under these conditions built character & many of the people they worked alongside were quite the characters themselves. Cliff's mother-in-law stated at one time, that they should put a motor on these little trailers & drive them to the next camp instead of having to pull them around. Little did she know that motorhomes would be all the rage in the next 10-20 years.

In 1959 the oilfield patch around Alida & Carnduff really started to boom & more & more oil companies & trucking companies started to spring up. Cliff moved to Carnduff to work for Bergman & Garvey to find greener pastures. Their daughter Claudia was born March 14th, 1960 which completed their family.

The oil patch was progressively getting more modernized with trucks, leases, roads & lots of new drilling. 1961 Bergman & Garvey sold out & Cliff started working for R.E. Line Trucking out of Alida. Richard Line was a mentor to Cliff in many ways, instilling in him a fine appreciation for his role in this company & giving him good business lessons. The family moved out to an abandoned service station just outside Carnduff called "Short Stop Service" where Les & Mary Laird the truck push lived. This arrangement grew into an adopted family scenario. As anyone that has grown up in the patch knows, the long hours spent working together, makes a family bond that travels with you everywhere you go. Cliff's hours were still long & family life was very limited. He would be gone in the morning before the kids awoke & in at night after they were asleep. This made Joanna's job as a parent very stressful & trying at times, but everyone was in the same position, so you made do & made the most of times spent together. They were simple times, but everyone always came together for fun times. In 1962 Cliff was asked to drive for Dempsey Laird in Halbrite, one of R.E. Line's field shops. He moved the family there for 9 months & then moved back to Carnduff for another 6 years.

1969 Cliff got his break & chance for advancement when R.E. Line asked him to move to Kisbey to manage that trucking field office. This was a big step for him, for he had always been the employee, never the boss. Cliff picked up the challenge & with Joanna at his side to run the office, they headed out on this new adventure. When they first started, they had 2 trucks to push. The days were still long but Cliff was finding more time to be involved with his family & his new community. As the years passed the oil industry in the area flourished & so did the company, with local drivers being the backbone of the company. 1978 Cliff bought out his share of R.E. Line Trucking business in Kisbey & Cliff Nankivell Trucking Ltd. Was incorporated. This was a major accomplishment in Cliff's life & the family was determined to pull together as a team to make it succeed. Calvin had been driving for the company already since 1974 & the father & son team were determined to keep Cliff Nankivell Trucking renowned.

for trustworthy service. "You Call-We Haul" was the motto used to promote the company service. In 1982 Kathy, Calvin's wife started helping in the office & in 1985 Claudia moved home to manage the office. So, it was indeed a family business.

Since the inception of the company, the trucking services, products, & production hauling areas all have expanded. From small International R 1 90's body trucks to quads & triaxle trailers today. With all the changes along the way, Cliff was always mindful of giving the best service & never forgetting his grass roots. He feels that running a family business is like running the family farm, there is a lot of pride & love in what you do together to accomplish your goals & dreams.

With the company expansion, Cliff was able to take part in community affairs. He has been a proud Elks member since moving to Kisbey, alderman on Village Council for 25 + yrs, recently elected Mayor in 2010, local church board, Senior Hall Board & Watershed Committee. In the early 90s Cliff acquired the Herb Elmy farm, south of Kisbey. It was refreshing to get back to the grass roots of farming again. Cliff was always excited to get the seed in the ground & a sense of accomplishment when the crop came off in the fall. Cliff & Joanna worked as a team just like the trucking company to make a go of it. Lunch in the field was a welcome treat with reminiscing of their younger years as newlywed young farmers in Manitoba. Due to health problems in 2001/2002 Cliff had to turn the farming of the land to Brigden Farms of Kisbey but is still eager to see machinery working in the fields during the seeding & harvest seasons.

Cliff Retired from the company in 2002 but keeps a keen interest in the working of the company as Calvin & Claudia took over the leadership roles. He feels that it has been a privilege to work alongside a host of fellow oil patch workers. The memories & friendships will carry him a life time. Some say it is a "Rags to Riches" story but he feels it is a journey of "Grainfields to Oilfields". Never forget where you came from